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RTD UPDATES: Cropping Patterns

Data updates from the Resources and Technology Division

Economic Research Service
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Cropping Patterns on Land in Corn, Soybeans, and Cotton in 1992

- Data come from the 10 major States growing corn, 14 growing soybeans, and 6 growing cotton.
- Corn-soybean rotations dominated in the major growing States except for continuous corn in MI, NE, and WI, and continuous soybeans in LA, MS, and TN.
- A continuous cotton pattern dominated on cotton land in all 6 major growing States.

This issue of RTD UPDATES summarizes the most common 3-year cropping sequences used by producers in the major corn-, soybean-, and cotton-growing States in 1992. The cropping sequences information is based on the Cropping Practices Survey, conducted each summer on randomly selected fields with specific crops in the major States.

Cropping patterns information is useful in assessing impacts of changes in farm commodity prices and government policies. Benefits often associated with cropping diversity include greater use of residual nitrogen and lower use of fertilizer; better soil moisture management; fewer problems from insects, weeds, and

diseases; and reduced soil erosion and farm chemical runoff and leaching.

The two most common cropping sequences in the 10 major corn-growing States were corn-soybeans-corn on 43 percent of the 1992 land planted to corn, and continuous corn on about one-fourth of the 1992 corn acreage. The corn-soybeans-corn pattern was the most used in 7 of the 10 States and continuous corn production in the other 3.

The most prevalent cropping pattern reported in the 7 major northern soybean-producing States was soybeans-corn-soybeans (57 percent overall of 1992 soybean acres). However, in the 7 major southern growing States continuous soybean production was most common (25 percent overall).

Continuous cotton was prevalent in the 6 major cotton-producing States, 66 percent of all 1992 cotton land followed this pattern. Continuous cotton in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas exceeded three-fourths of all cotton land in these States.

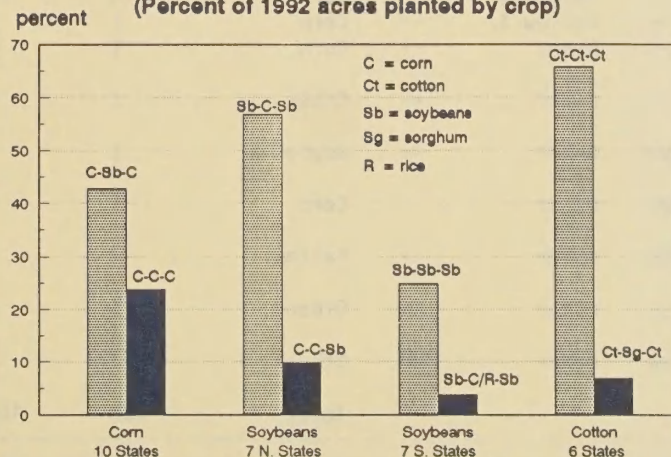
Contact: Mohinder Gill, RTD, (202) 219-0460.

About RTD UPDATES

RTD UPDATES is a semimonthly series featuring data relating to agricultural resources, the environment, food safety, and technology. These UPDATES report recent data from surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource conditions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. Please contact the individual listed at the end of the text for additional information about the data in this UPDATE. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have other questions about RTD UPDATES, contact Richard Magleby, (202) 219-0436.

Major Cropping Patterns 1990-1992

(Percent of 1992 acres planted by crop)



Cropping patterns used on land in corn, ten major growing States, 1992

Previous crop		State												Total ten States
1990	1991	IL	IN	IA	MI	MN	MO	Total NE	NE Dry	NE Irr.	OH	SD	WI	
		Million acres planted												
		11.2	6.1	13.2	2.7	7.2	2.5	8.3	2.7	5.6	3.8	3.8	3.9	62.7
		Percent of acres												
Corn	Corn	15	20	17	31	12	12	59	23	77	15	12	30	24
Soybeans	Corn	6	10	8	3	5	8	4	6	3	10	3	3	6
Alfalfa	Corn	1	1	2	3	*	nr	1	2	1	1	nr	12	2
Other	Corn	1	2	1	6	3	2	4	5	4	5	3	6	3
Corn	Soybeans	61	51	58	16	50	36	18	39	9	32	38	7	43
Soybeans	Soybeans	5	4	3	4	4	15	1	4	nr	6	1	3	4
Other	Soybeans	3	2	5	5	7	7	2	4	*	5	11	3	4
Other	Fallow 1/	3	2	1	10	4	4	1	4	1	12	5	6	4
Alfalfa	Alfalfa	*	1	2	2	*	1	nr	1	nr	1	*	18	2
Other	Alfalfa	1	1	2	1	1	2	nr	nr	1	2	nr	3	1
Other	Wheat	1	nr	nr	2	4	nr	nr	2	nr	1	12	nr	1
Corn	Oats	1	nr	*	nr	2	nr	2	4	nr	1	5	1	1
Other	Oats	*	nr	nr	nr	1	nr	nr	1	nr	nr	2	nr	*
Subtotal		98	94	99	83	94	87	92	95	96	91	92	92	95
Other	Other	2	6	1	17	6	13	8	5	4	9	8	8	5
Total		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

nr = None reported. * = less than 1 percent. 1/ Includes no crops planted for whatever reason.

Cropping patterns used on land in soybeans, seven major northern growing States, 1992

Previous crop				State						Total seven States	
1990		1991		IL	IN	IA	MN	MO	NE	OH	
				Million acres planted							
				9.50	4.55	8.30	5.50	4.30	2.50	3.75	38.40
Fall	Spring/ Summer	Fall	Spring/ Summer	Percent of acres							
--	Corn	--	Soybeans	4	4	4	8	6	3	11	5
--	Soybeans	--	Soybeans	1	3	3	1	17	1	12	4
--	Other	--	Soybeans	*	1	*	2	3	3	4	2
--	Corn	--	Corn	8	12	13	5	6	20	11	10
--	Soybeans	--	Corn	71	60	72	56	25	50	33	57
--	Fallow 1/	--	Corn	1	1	nr	1	1	2	9	2
--	Other	--	Corn	1	4	5	10	2	5	4	4
--	Other	--	Other	2	1	3	17	8	12	3	6
WW	Other	--	Soybeans	1	1	nr	nr	6	nr	3	2
WW	Other	--	Corn	4	4	nr	nr	1	nr	4	2
WW	Other	--	Fallow	2	1	nr	nr	9	*	4	1
--	Other	WW	Other	3	4	nr	nr	7	4	2	4
WW	Other	WW	Other	2	4	nr	nr	9	nr	nr	1
Total				100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

nr = None reported. * = Less than 1 percent. WW = Winter Wheat. 1/ Includes no crops planted for whatever reason.
Source: 1992 Cropping Practices Survey, USDA.

Cropping patterns used on land in soybeans, seven major southern growing States, 1992

Previous crop				State							Total seven States
1990		1991		AR	GA	KY	LA	MS	NC	TN	
				Million acres planted							
				3.20	0.65	1.18	1.22	1.80	1.40	1.00	10.45
Fall	Spring/ Summer	Fall	Spring/ Summer	Percent of acres							
--	Corn	--	Soybeans	nr	1	1	5	2	3	3	2
--	Soybeans	--	Soybeans	21	8	12	27	49	10	36	25
--	Other	--	Soybeans	11	4	2	3	7	6	4	7
--	Corn	--	Corn	nr	1	4	3	nr	2	nr	2
--	Soybeans	--	Corn	nr	2	28	7	3	16	6	7
--	Other	--	Corn	1	2	1	1	*	2	2	1
--	Other	--	Cotton	1	3	nr	5	6	4	5	4
--	Other	--	Fallow 1/	3	5	2	17	6	7	1	6
--	Soybeans	--	Rice	15	nr	nr	10	9	nr	nr	7
--	Other	--	Rice	7	nr	nr	4	4	nr	nr	3
--	Other	--	Other	12	20	nr	4	3	11	4	5
WW	Soybeans	--	Soybeans	4	2	1	3	1	4	5	3
WW	Other	--	Soybeans	nr	2	2	nr	nr	nr	1	1
WW	Other	--	Corn	nr	6	5	nr	nr	2	1	1
--	Soybeans	WW	Corn	nr	nr	18	nr	nr	3	1	3
--	Other	WW	Corn	*	nr	2	1	nr	4	1	1
--	Soybeans	WW	Soybeans	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	2
--	Other	WW	Soybeans	3	4	6	nr	*	5	3	2
WW	Other	WW	Fallow	1	5	1	2	2	1	2	2
WW	Soybeans	WW	Corn	nr	2	6	nr	nr	2	5	2
WW	Soybeans	WW	Soybeans	12	13	4	3	4	7	9	8
WW	Other	WW	Soybeans	1	4	nr	*	nr	3	3	1
--	Other	WW	Other	5	15	3	4	2	7	6	7
Total				100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

nr = None reported. * = Less than 1 percent. WW = Winter Wheat. 1/ Includes no crops planted for whatever reason.
Source: 1992 Cropping Practices Survey, USDA.

Cropping patterns used on land in cotton, six major growing States, 1992

		State						Total six States
1990	1991	AZ	AR	CA	LA	MS	TX	
		Million acres planted						
		0.33	1.00	1.00	0.89	1.35	5.55	10.12
		Percent of acres						
Cotton	Corn	nr	nr	nr	2	nr	2	1
Other	Corn	nr	nr	nr	2	1	6	4
Cotton	Sorghum	nr	1	nr	nr	1	12	7
Other	Sorghum	nr	1	nr	2	nr	2	2
Soybean	Soybean	nr	4	nr	2	4	nr	1
Other	Soybean	nr	3	nr	nr	3	nr	1
Fallow 1/	Fallow	8	1	2	1	nr	1	2
Cotton	Fallow	7	nr	1	nr	1	2	2
Other	Fallow	nr	nr	nr	nr	1	1	1
Cotton	Cotton	68	78	48	85	82	60	66
Fallow	Cotton	6	3	2	nr	1	1	2
Soybean	Cotton	nr	7	nr	1	3	2	2
Other	Cotton	3	2	20	nr	2	8	6
Other	Vegetable	2	nr	7	nr	nr	1	1
	Subtotal	94	100	90	95	97	98	98
Other	Other	6	0	10	5	3	2	2
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

nr = None reported. 1/ Includes no crops planted for whatever reason.
Source: 1992 Cropping Practices Survey, USDA.

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Economic Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1301 New York Avenue, N.W., Room 524
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